

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing a multi-device distributed digital video recording system, comprising:

broadcasting a request from a requesting digital video recorder (DVR) to a plurality of networked DVRs seeking resources of a dormant DVR;

receiving a response to the request from at least one dormant DVR in the plurality of networked DVRs indicating availability of resources;

selecting a granting DVR from the at least one dormant DVRs DVR with available resources;

establishing a session between said requesting DVR and said granting DVR; and providing resources of said granting DVR for use by said requesting DVR; .

2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said resources include at least one of a tuner and a storage device.

3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

 said resources comprise a tuner of said granting DVR; and
 control of said tuner is turned over to said requesting DVR.

4. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

requesting by the requesting DVR that said granting DVR tune to a particular channel and record designated content from said channel; and
storing said designated content at said granting DVR for use by said requesting DVR.

5. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel, further comprising:

advising the requesting DVR that said access to the particular channel is not available;
requesting access to the particular channel by the requesting DVR on behalf of the granting DVR.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein:

a fee is charged to the requesting DVR for the designated content.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

tagging the recorded designated content as being owned by said requesting DVR.

8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 7, further comprising:

encrypting the recorded designated content with an encryption key known to said requesting DVR.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 8, further comprising:

making said encrypted recorded designated content available to said granting DVR.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, wherein said encrypted designated content is made available to said granting DVR for a fee.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

requesting access to said stored designated content by said requesting DVR; and
uploading the stored designated content from the granting DVR to said requesting DVR.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

requesting access to said stored designated content by said requesting DVR; and
streaming the stored designated content from the granting DVR to said requesting DVR.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising:

controlling presentation of said streamed designated content utilizing a command and control channel to send commands from said requesting DVR to said granting DVR.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein said commands comprise at least one of play, stop, pause, fast forward, rewind, skip, and jump.

15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

automatically forwarding said stored designated content to a storage device at said requesting DVR.

16. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

routing said request for resources through a system operator;
wherein multiple requests for identical designated content from multiple requesting DVRs are handled by a single granting DVR.

17. (Currently amended) A multi-device distributed digital video recording system,

comprising:

a plurality of networked digital video recorders;
a requesting digital video recorder (DVR) capable of broadcasting a request to said plurality of networked DVRs seeking resources of a dormant DVR;
at least one dormant DVR in the plurality of networked DVRs capable of receiving the request and for providing a response to said requesting DVR indicating availability of resources;

wherein:

said requesting DVR selects a granting DVR from the at least one dormant DVRs DVR with available resources;
a session is established between said requesting DVR and said granting DVR; and

resources of said granting DVR are made available for use by said requesting DVR.

18. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein said resources include at least one of a tuner and a storage device.

19. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein:
said resources comprise a tuner of said granting DVR; and
control of said tuner is turned over to said requesting DVR.

20. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein:
said requesting DVR requests that said granting DVR tune to a particular channel and record designated content from said channel; and
said granting DVR stores said designated content for use by said requesting DVR.

21. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
said granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel;
said granting DVR advising the requesting DVR that said access is not available;
said requesting DVR requests access to the particular channel on behalf of the granting DVR.

22. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

a fee is charged to the requesting DVR for the designated content.

23. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

 said granting DVR tags the recorded designated content as being owned by said requesting DVR.

24. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 23, wherein:

 said granting DVR encrypts the recorded designated content with an encryption key known to said requesting DVR.

25. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 24, wherein:

 said encrypted recorded designated content is made available to said granting DVR.

26. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

 said encrypted designated content is made available to said granting DVR for a fee.

27. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

 said requesting DVR requests access to said stored designated content; and
 the stored designated content is uploaded from the granting DVR to said requesting DVR.

28. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

 said requesting DVR requests access to said stored designated content; and
 the stored designated content is streamed from the granting DVR to said
 requesting DVR.

29. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 28, wherein:

 said requesting DVR controls presentation of said streamed designated content
 utilizing a command and control channel to send commands to said granting DVR.

30. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 29, wherein:

 said commands comprise at least one of play, stop, pause, fast forward, rewind,
 skip, and jump.

31. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

 said granting DVR automatically forwards said stored designated content to a
 storage device at said requesting DVR.

32. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

 said request for resources is routed through a system operator; and
 multiple requests for identical designated content from multiple requesting DVRS
 are handled by a single granting DVR.

33. (Currently Amended) A digital video recorder (DVR) for use in a multi-device

distributed digital video recording system, comprising:

at least one tuner;

at least one storage device;

a processor enabled for at least one of:

(a) broadcasting a request to a plurality of networked DVRs seeking resources of ~~a~~ at least one dormant DVR; receiving a response to the request from the at least one dormant DVR indicating availability of resources; selecting a granting DVR from the at least one dormant ~~DVRs~~ DVR with available resources; establishing a session with said granting DVR; and utilizing resources of said granting DVR; and

(b) receiving a broadcast request from a requesting DVR seeking available resources; responding to said requesting DVR regarding availability of resources; if resources are available and if selected by said requesting DVR, establishing a session with said requesting DVR; and providing resources for use by said requesting DVR.